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1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM DEC 15 1936 ★

North Central Region

A better balance between soil-conserving crops and soil-depleting crops, a balance which will maintain and improve the Nation's agricultural plant, is the goal of the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program. Through this program, the Government is offering to share with farmers the expense entailed in achieving this goal.

County Administration

The administration of the program in the counties will be under the supervision of the officers of the county agricultural conservation associations. These men will be selected by the farmers residing in the county. The county administrative expense will be deducted, pro rata, from the payments to farmers in the county who participate in the program.

Bases

In order to determine each individual farmer's part in the program, and the payments earned by him, soil-depleting bases and soil-conserving bases will be established for each farm. There will be a separate soil-depleting base for cotton, tobacco, and general crops (corn, wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, flax, vegetable crops, truck crops, etc.). In establishing these bases, consideration will be given to the 1936 bases for such crops with revisions in the light of information gained in 1936, which will provide for more equity between farms.

The soil-conserving base will be obtained by subtracting the soil-depleting base from the total number of acres of cropland in the farm. (Except in semi-arid regions, cropland is the farm land which is tillable and on which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested or planted for harvest between January 1, 1930 and January 1, 1937; and any other farm land devoted on January 1, 1937 to orchards or vineyards other than those abandoned.)

A corn acreage limit will be established for farms in areas where corn for grain is a major crop. This limit will conform to good conservation practices and on the average will be slightly less than the 1936 planted acreage of corn.

Classification of Land

With certain exceptions, land will be classified as soil-depleting when left idle or used for the production of such crops as grain, grain hay, vegetables, sugar beets, sudan grass, or rape. Cropland not used for these purposes will be classified as soil-conserving if, in 1937, there is on such land a good stand of such crops as clover, alfalfa, blue grass, timothy, or lespedeza, regardless of when such crops may have been sown. However, if a

nurse crop is used in the seeding of a soil-conserving crop in 1937, the land will not be classified as soil-conserving unless the nurse crop is seeded at a rate no greater than one-half the normal rate for grain, and is not used for grain or hay.

Because so much of the 1936 or earlier seedings of soil-conserving crops were lost by adverse weather, an acreage of idle land and such emergency forage crops as soybean hay, oat hay, sudan grass, and rape will be classified as neutral in 1937 in an amount no greater than the difference between the soil-conserving base and the acreage of soil-conserving crops seeded prior to November 1, 1936.

Diversion Payments

The principal payment in the 1937 program will be made for the diversion of crops included in the general soil-depleting base to soil-conserving crops. This diversion payment will be divided into two parts, one of which is called the six-dollar payment, and the other, the three-dollar payment. They are so called because the national average rate of payment is six and three dollars, but the rates will vary according to the productivity of the farm.

The six-dollar payment is computed by multiplying the six-dollar rate by the acreage, (not in excess of 15 percent of the soil-depleting base), by which the acreage of soil-depleting crops in 1937 is less than the soil-depleting base.

The three-dollar payment will be made on an acreage not in excess of that for which the six-dollar payment is made and will be computed by multiplying the three-dollar rate by the sum of (1) the acreage of old seedings of soil-conserving crops in excess of the soil-conserving base, and (2) the acreage of new seedings on land classified as soil-conserving. This provision will permit farmers to substitute an acreage of emergency forage crops for that part of the normal acreage of soil-conserving crops killed by the drought. These farmers are thereby placed on a comparable footing with those farmers who have a normal acreage in soil-conserving crops in the spring of 1937.

The three-dollar payment will not be made on dry-land farms but on such farms a corresponding amount will be added to the soil-building allowance.

Diversion payments will also be made for diversion from cotton and tobacco soil-depleting bases to soil-conserving crops. Cotton payments will be made at five cents per pound on the established yield for diversion not in excess of 35 percent of the base. Tobacco diversion payments will be five cents per pound for Burley up to 25 percent diversion; three and one-half cents per pound for dark air-cured up to 30 percent diversion; and all other types at three cents per pound up to 25 percent diversion.

Participating farmers who grow sugar beets in accordance with specified cropping practices will receive twelve and one-half cents per hundred pounds of sugar (raw value) not in excess of their allotments.

No specific payment will be made for decreasing corn acreage below the corn acreage limit. However, for farms upon which a corn acreage limit is established the six-dollar and the three-dollar payment rate will be increased five percent.

Practice Payments

A soil-building practice allowance will be established for each farm. On farms for which the total soil-depleting base is less than twenty acres, the allowance will be computed by multiplying eighty cents by the total number of crop acres on the farm. On farms for which the soil-depleting base is twenty acres or more, or for which a cotton or tobacco base is established, the allowance will be computed by multiplying one dollar by the number of acres in the soil-conserving base plus the number of acres for which the six-dollar payment is made. On farms in semi-arid areas of South Dakota and Nebraska where it is impracticable to grow soil-conserving crops, the allowance will be increased by adding an amount equal to the three-dollar payment which could have been earned if the soil-conserving crops on the farm were increased.

The soil-building allowance will also be increased by an amount equal to one dollar times the number of acres in commercial fruit and vegetable crops (double cropped vegetable land - \$2.00).

There will be an additional allowance based on the carrying capacity, in excess of five animal units, of the noncrop pasture land.

For each acre of idle land classified as neutral in 1937, one dollar will be deducted from the soil-building allowance.

A special range land allowance will be established for range land farms in western Nebraska and western South Dakota.

The soil-building practice allowance may be earned by following such practices as the seeding of soil-conserving crops, liming, terracing, tree-planting and fallowing in designated areas. The rates for such practices will, in most instances, be somewhat less than the "out-of-pocket" costs of such practices.

Deductions

For each acre of general soil-depleting crops on the farm in 1937 in excess of the general soil-depleting base, and for each acre of corn planted in 1937 on the farm in excess of the corn acreage limit, a deduction will be made at the six-dollar payment rate. Deductions will also

be made for (1) exceeding the cotton and tobacco bases at the diversion rates for these crops, and (2) at the three dollar rate, for each acre of cotton or tobacco diversion which is not matched by an additional acre of soil-conserving crops.

Small Farms

Except as specifically authorized, no farm will be eligible to earn a payment for diversion from the general soil-depleting base if such base is less than twenty acres, and no deductions will be made with respect to the acreage of general soil-depleting crops grown in excess of the general soil-depleting base except the acreage of soil-depleting crops grown in 1937 in excess of twenty acres.

In no event will the soil-building allowance be less than \$10.00 for any farm and in no event will the total payment which may be earned on any farm be less than \$20.00.

Examples

No. 1

Size of farm	160 acres
Cropland	140 acres
Soil-Depleting Base	100 acres
Soil-Conserving Base	40 acres
	(140-100)
Corn Acreage Limit	50 acres
Productivity of Farm	110
Crops in 1937: 45 acres corn, 20 acres of wheat (in which sweet clover is seeded), 20 acres of oats, 20 acres old seedings of alfalfa and 22 acres old seedings of sweet clover, 13 acres new seedings of alfalfa (seeded alone) good stand, 6 tons lime applied.	
Total Soil-Depleting Crops	85 acres
Total Soil-Conserving Crops	55 acres

Diversion Payment Rates

\$6.00 payment:	\$6.00 x 110% (productivity for farm)	
	x 105% (for corn limit)	= \$6.93
\$3.00 payment:	\$3.00 x 110% (productivity for farm)	
	x 105% (for corn limit)	= \$3.465

Diversion Payments

\$6.00 payment:	100-85 = 15 x \$6.93 =	\$103.95
\$3.00 payment:	2 + 13 = 15 x 3.465 =	51.97

Soil-Building Allowance

40 + 15 = 55 x \$1.00 = \$55.00

Practice Payments

13 Acres Alfalfa Seeding @ \$2.00	=	\$26.00
20 Acres Sweet Clover Seeding @ \$1.00	=	20.00
6 Tons lime @ \$1.25	=	<u>7.50</u>
Total Earned		<u>53.50</u>
TOTAL		\$209.42

No. II

Same farm as above and 1937 crops the same as above except for 20 acres of alfalfa which killed out in 1936 and which was replaced by 20 acres of soybeans for hay and with the further exception that only 10 acres of the new seeding of alfalfa was a good stand.

In this example, 18 acres of the soybean hay land will be classified as neutral, and 2 acres as soil-depleting because only the acreage of emergency forage crops which is equal to the difference between the soil-conserving base (40 acres) and the old seedings of soil-conserving crops (22 acres) will be classified as neutral in 1937.

The three-dollar payment will only apply to the good stand of new seedings since the acreage of soil-conserving crops seeded prior to November 1, 1936 is less than the number of acres in the soil-conserving base.

Soil-Depleting Acreage	87 acres
Good stand - new seeding of soil-	
conserving crops	10 acres

\$6.00 payments	100-87 = 13 x \$6.93 =	\$90.09
\$3.00 payments	10 x 3.465 =	34.65
Soil-Building Allowance	40 + 13 = 53 x \$1.00 =	\$53.00
Allowance Overearned and Practice Payment		
therefore:		<u>53.00</u>
Total		\$177.74

